

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Family Engagement Holiday Activities



(Ice Breakers)

Name That Carol

Test your family's Christmas-song knowledge with this guessing game. Make a list Christmas carols, but only read out 3 - 4 words from each song and see how many carols everyone can guess.

Holiday Memories

What does Christmas mean to you? Get to know your family a little better by opening a discussion with these questions:

- What was your best Christmas gift?
- What is your favorite holiday song?
- What is one gift you'll never forget receiving?
- What is your favorite kind of Christmas cookie?
- It wouldn't be Christmas without _____.
- What is your favorite kind of Christmas candy?
- What is your favorite Christmas food?
- What is your favorite Christmas ornament? Why?

Stack the Gifts

All you need for this fun game is several wrapped packages of various sizes. Try stacking them yourself to make sure the challenge is difficult but possible. You can play this game in teams or pairs if you wish. The goal is to see how many gifts contestants can stack before the pile topples.

Stocking Guessing Game

This challenging game forces you to identify items with only your sense of touch. Fill a stocking with small toys and Christmas items, for example: a candy cane, a bell, a toy car, or a pinecone. Let the contestants feel the stocking and try to identify the contents.

(Creative Holiday Fun)

Christmas Movie Guessing Game

See how well you can draw your favorite Christmas movies.

Supplies: Slips of paper with a different movie written on each one, bowl, notepad, pencils, timer

- Choose a timekeeper and divide participants into teams.
- The first player from team one picks a piece of paper from the bowl and reads it silently.

- When ready, he or she hands it to the timekeeper.
- The player then draws clues on the notepad, and his or her teammates try to guess the name of the song before the time runs out.
- If the player's team guesses the title correctly in time, they get two points.
- If the player's team cannot guess the title in time, the opposing team gets to guess.
- If the opposing team guesses correctly, they get a point and the playing team loses a point.

Gift Wrapping Challenge

Wrapping presents isn't so easy when your hands are tied.

- Provide gift wrap and rolls of ribbon.
- Divide the group into teams of two.
- Each pair of players stands side-by-side, tied together at the hand.
- Each team must wrap a package using only their untied hands.
- Additionally, they must tie it with a bow.
- The winning team is the one wraps their gift the most neatly.

Santa Limbo

A Christmas twist on a classic party game. Have participants put a "Santa belly" under their shirt using a pillow. Place a limbo stick at a starting height. They then line up, and one-by-one try to limbo underneath (with the Santa belly) until everyone has tried. Slightly lower the stick and have those who made it through go again. Continually lower the stick until one winner remains!